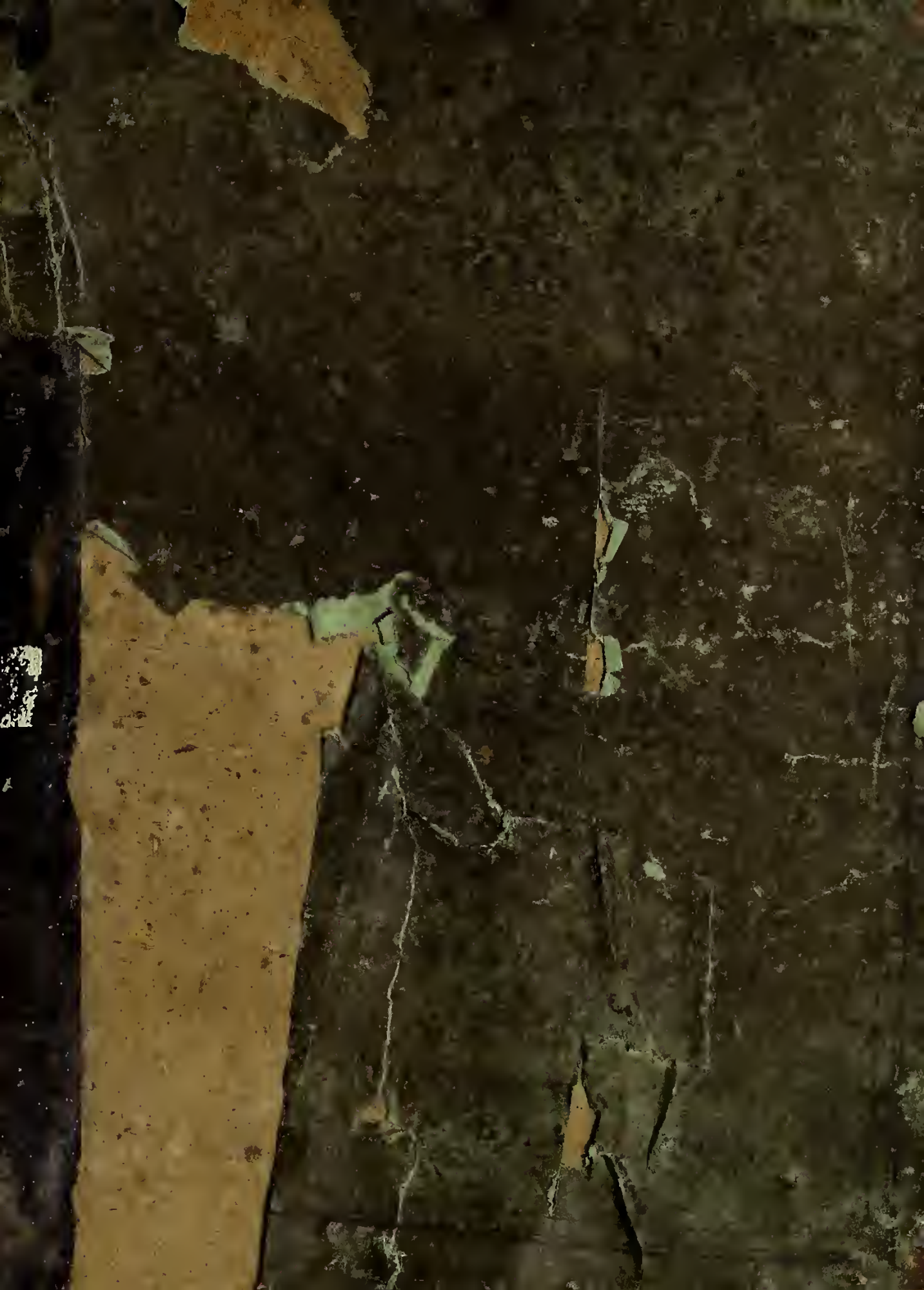

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MY LITTLE

GEOGRAPHY.

AS I HAVE LEARN'D TO READ AND SPELL,
THIS LITTLE BOOK I 'LL BUY,
AND STUDY ALL ABOUT THE EARTH
ON WHICH WE LIVE AND DIE.

EDITED BY MRS. L. C. TUTHILL.

PHILADELPHIA:
LINDSAY & BLAKISTON.

CHAMBER OF THE CONTROLLERS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
FIRST SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Philodelphia, October 8th, 1850.

At a Meeting of the Controllers of Public Schools, First District of Pennsylvania, held at the Controllers' Chamber, on Tuesday, September 10th, 1850, the following Resolution was adopted.

Resolved, That the work entitled "MY LITTLE GEOGRAPHY. BY MRS. L. C. TUTHILL," be introduced, to be used in the Primary Schools of the District.

ROBERT J. HEMPHILL, *Secretary*.

TO MESSRS. LINDSAY & BLAKISTON.

Entered, according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1847, by

LINDSAY & BLAKISTON,

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EDITOR'S PREFACE.

There are many books of Geography now in use, and very excellent some of them are; yet this little work differs from all of them, and interferes with none.

It describes the Earth and its natural divisions, as formed by the Creator, with its productions and inhabitants adapted to various climates, without resorting to imaginary lines and circles. As it is intended for the child's first book of scientific study, it is made as clear and simple as possible, and will be useful in preparing the mind for more complete systems of Geography.

2559016

The easy verses at the end of the chapters are all original, and are designed to fix in the memory the knowledge acquired. They will doubtless be learned by rote, and thus aid in strengthening a verbal memory; while the answers to the questions should, as far as possible, be given in the child's own words. Many simple questions are judiciously left without answers, to exercise the ingenuity of the learner.

The little book is respectfully commended to Mothers and Teachers, with the hope and belief, that they will find it an efficient and agreeable aid in imparting the first principles of Geography.

L. C. TUTHILL.

Philadelphia, March, 1847.

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MY LITTLE GEOGRAPHY.

CHAPTER I.

Land and Water.

WHAT is this world that you live on called?

A. The earth.

Why do you say that you live *on* the earth?

A. Because it is a globe or ball, and we live on the outside of it.

In what town do you live?

Did you ever hear of any other places? What are they?

Are all the places you ever heard of on the same earth?

A. They are, but they are so far from each other that I cannot see them all at the same time.

What is the part of the earth on which we live called?

A. Land.

Is the earth all covered with land?

A. No. A part of it is covered with land and a part with water.

Is all the land together and all the water together?

A. No. Some of the land is in the midst of the water, and some of the water is in the midst of the land.

Is the earth very large?

A. Yes. It is many hundred times larger than any town I ever saw.

Who made the earth and all that is on it?

A. God.

The God who made the earth so round,
And every star above,
Looks down upon each little child,
And guards him with His love.

CHAPTER II.

Continents.

Is the land divided into portions of the same size?

A. No. Some of them are very large, and some very small.

What are the largest portions of land called?

A. Continents, and they are so large that it would take a great many years to go all over them.

How many continents are there?

A. Two.

What are they called?

A. The Eastern and the Western continents.

Could you ride in a carriage from the Eastern to the Western continent?

A. No, because they are very far from each other, and it is all water between them.

On which continent do you live?

A. On the Western continent.

Columbus.

Four hundred years ago, the people on the Eastern continent did not know anything about the Western continent. A very wise man who lived then, thought that the earth was round, and he did not believe that the continent he lived on was all the land on the earth. Everybody laughed at him, but he did not mind it. He went to the king of Spain and asked him to

help him to go and look for the great country on the other side of the water. The king gave him three ships, and helped him to get food for his men, and all that he would need to be gone a great while. Christopher Columbus, for that was his name, was not afraid to go on the water, for he knew that God would take care of him when he was far away from any land, as well as when he was at home.

After sailing a great distance, Christopher Columbus found the Western Continent. When he returned to Spain the king gave him a great deal of money, and everybody praised him.

When Columbus grew old he was very badly treated, and he was very unhappy before he died.

Columbus left his friends and home
To sail upon the sea,
And when he found our continent,
A happy man was he.

The Island.

CHAPTER III.

Islands.

WHAT is an island?

A. An island is a portion of land with water all around it.

Are all islands of the same size?

A. No. Some of them are so large that towns and villages are built upon them at a great distance from each other; others are so small that there is only room for a few bushes or wild flowers to grow upon them.

Where are islands found?

A. Some of them lie far away in the ocean, out of sight of any other land; some are in seas and rivers, and some in little brooks that water the fields.

Are two or three islands ever found together?

A. Yes. We sometimes find a number of islands of different sizes very near to each other, just like a family. From such a group of islands, in the warm South, we get the Canary birds that sing so sweetly in our cages.

There was once a sailor who was crossing the ocean in a ship, and there came a violent storm, which dashed the ship to pieces, and drowned the captain and all the sailors but one. He was cast on the shore of an island. Here he

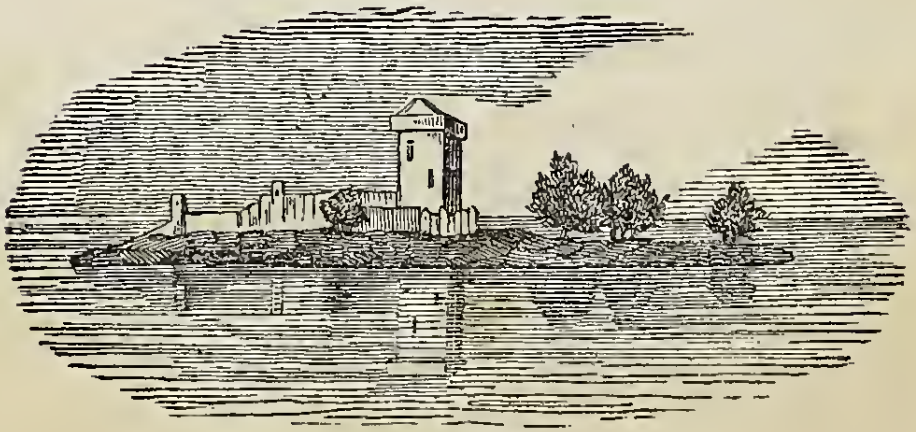
was very lonely, as there were no other men upon it, and he would often wander along the shore, hoping that a ship would come in sight. For many years he saw nothing but the waters which were on every side; but at length a ship stopped at the island and took him home to his friends. A story has been written about this poor sailor, in which he is called Robinson Crusoe, but that was not his true name. You must read the story about what happened to him while he was on the island, for you will find it very interesting.

They tell me of beautiful islands,
Afar in the tropical seas,
Where flowers will blossom all winter,
And oranges hang on the trees.

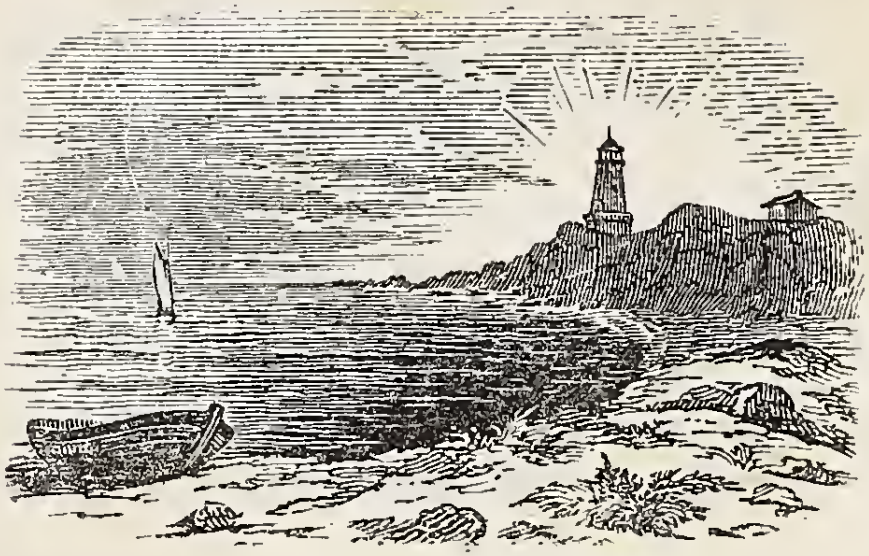
But dearer to me is the island
That lies in our own little bay,
For there with my sisters and brothers
I often have linger'd at play.

When winter has frozen the waters
On which we so merrily row,
We slide on the ice to the island,
To build up our houses of snow.

I always shall love the green island
Where nothing but violets grow;
I might in the others find beauties,
But this is delightful, I know.



An Island.



A Cape, with a Light-House upon it.

CHAPTER IV.

Coasts and Capes.

WHAT is a coast?

A. It is that part of the land which lies along by the side of the water.

If you upset a basin of water on the floor, will it make a round spot, perfectly smooth at the edge?

A. No. There will be a great many little points and crooked places about the edge.

Are coasts perfectly straight?

A. No, they are crooked, like the edge of the spot.

Are all the points and crooked places on the coast called by the same name?

A. No. They are called by different names.

When a piece of land reaches out into the water beyond the rest, and ends in a point, what is that point called?

A. It is called a cape.

Are capes dangerous places for vessels?

A. They are, for sometimes the captain does not know that he is near the land, and in the night his vessel is blown upon the cape, and before he can save it, it is stuck fast in the sand, or dashed upon the rocks.

What are sometimes built on capes?

A. Tall houses, or towers, with a little room at the top, where a light is kept burning all night, to show the sailors that they are near a dangerous place.

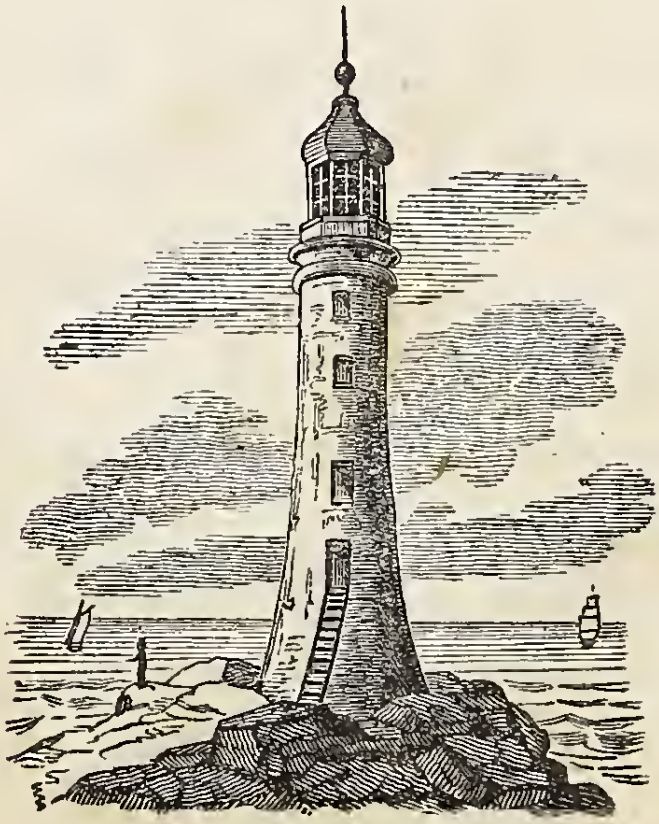
What are these tall houses or towers called?

A. They are called light-houses.

When a cape rises up very high out of the water, in a great rock, what is it called?

A. A promontory.

Whene'er the ship is near the coast,
The captain dare not sleep:
He walks the deck through all the night,
A constant watch to keep.



A Light-house.

CHAPTER V.

Peninsulas, Isthmuses and Shores.

WHAT is a peninsula?

A. It is a piece of land which reaches out into the water beyond the rest of the coast.

When a peninsula has a narrow part, which joins it to the coast, what is it called?

A. An isthmus or neck.

What does your neck join?

A. It joins my head to my body.

What does an isthmus or neck of land join?

A. It joins a peninsula to the main land.

What large city is built on a peninsula?

A. Boston.

What must you go over to get to Boston without crossing the water?

A. I must go over the isthmus which joins it to the land.

What is a shore?

A. It is the edge of a coast where it meets the water.

Are all shores alike?

A. No. On some we should cut our feet on the rocks; on some we should have to take care not to lose our shoes in the sand; on some we should sink in the mud; and on some our feet would not leave the slightest track.

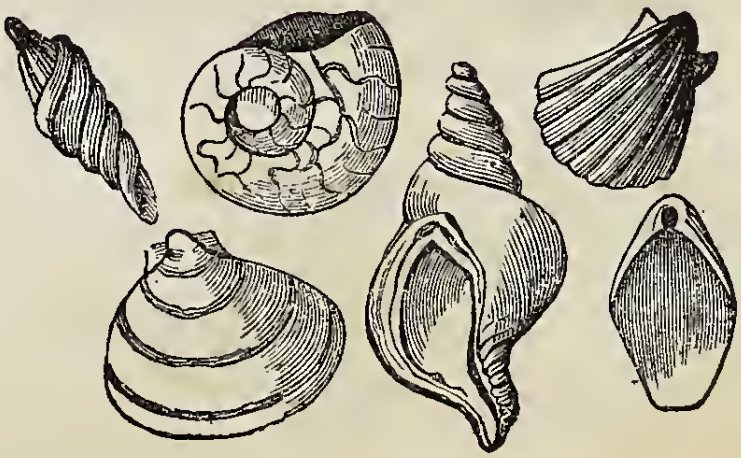
Children upon the Shore.

Is it pleasant to play upon the shore?

A. Yes, for there we can find pretty shells and little smooth stones. And then we like to

hear the sound of the water and watch the little fishes.

How merrily the children shout
Upon the pleasant shore;
They love to look for pretty shells,
And hear the waters roar.



Distant Mountains.

CHAPTER VI.

Mountains.

WHAT is a mountain?

A. A mountain is a high, rocky portion of land.

How do mountains look to us, when they are very far from us?

A. They look of a dark blue colour.

Do they look of the same colour when we come near to them?

A. No, because they are covered with rocks and trees and bushes.

Where do the highest trees grow on a mountain?

A. Near the bottom, and they are very small as you go towards the top.

When we go up a mountain, what must we be careful to do?

A. To wear warm clothes, for even in summer we shall find it very cool at the top.

With what are the tops of the highest mountains always covered?

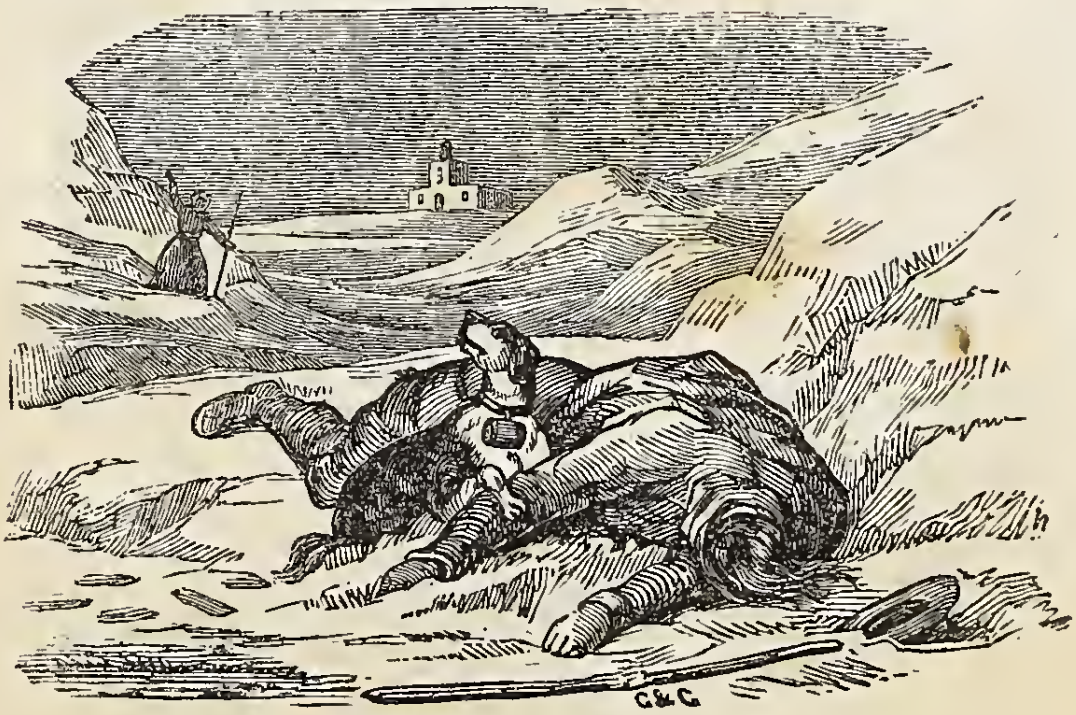
A. With snow.

Why does not the snow melt?

A. Because it is so cold, up so high, that the snow which falls in winter never melts.

There are some very high mountains on the

Eastern continent, called the Alps. The tops of these mountains are always covered with snow. Some very kind men live in a large house upon one of these mountains. These men have strong dogs, which do not mind the snow, and when these dogs meet any travellers who are cold or tired, they show them the way to the place where those good men live. Here they are warmed and fed and treated with great kindness. A great many people would have



The Traveller on the Alps.

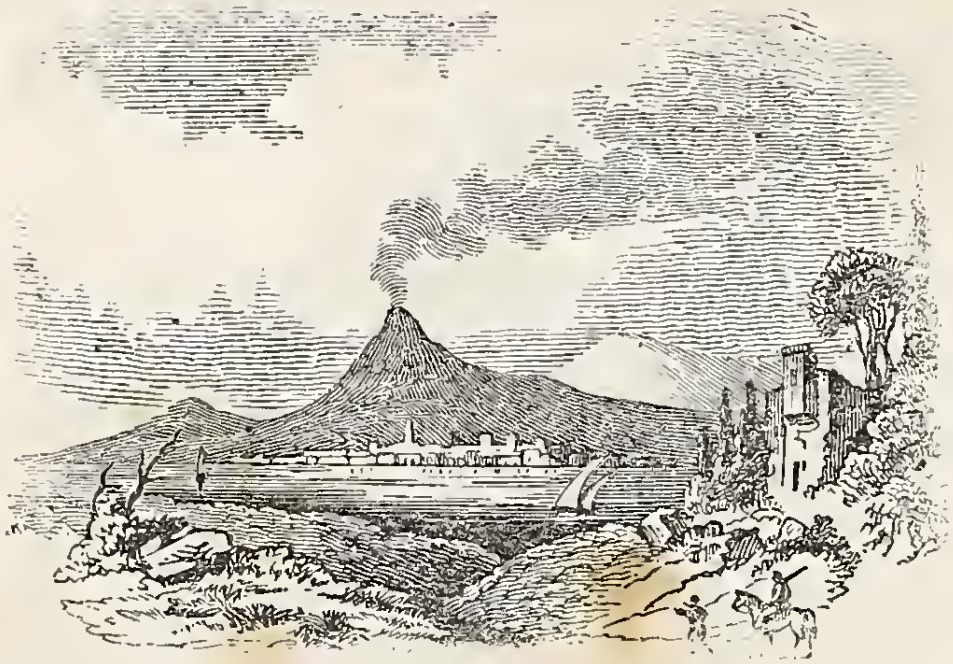
frozen to death or been buried in the snow on the Alps, if these dogs had not led them to the house of their kind masters.

One stormy night, upon the Alps,
A traveller, weak and old,
Walk'd sadly on, through ice and snow,
And shiver'd with the cold.

His eyes were dim with weariness,
His steps were short and slow;
At length he laid him down to sleep
Upon a bed of snow.

Before he closed his aching eyes,
He heard a cheerful bark!
A faithful dog was by his side
To guide him through the dark!

And soon beside the fire he stood,—
And earnestly he pray'd
For those who train'd that noble dog,
And sent him to his aid.



A Volcano.

CHAPTER VII.

Volcanoes.

WHAT is a volcano?

A. A volcano is a mountain, which sends out fire and smoke, from an opening at the top.

What is the crater of a volcano?

A. It is the opening where the fire and smoke come out.

Do volcanoes ever send out anything but fire and smoke?

A. Yes. Sometimes they throw out ashes and stones and lava.

What does lava look like?

A. It looks like melted lead or iron.

Do volcanoes send out ashes and stones, and lava, all the time?

A. No. Sometimes only a little smoke comes out of the crater.

What is an eruption of a volcano?

A. It is when the ashes and stones and lava, are thrown out of the crater.

There is a volcano on the Eastern Continent, called Mount Vesuvius. There was once a large city near the foot of this volcano. One day, the people were busy in their houses, not being afraid of any harm, when suddenly there was an eruption. Strange noises were heard, ashes filled the air, and lava came pouring down Mount Vesuvius. Before the people could escape, the city was buried in the ashes and lava, so that not even the tops of the houses could be seen.

The Mother and Child.

A little child had gone to sleep
  Upon its mother's breast,
And, full of love, she looked at it,
  So peacefully at rest.

But soon a fearful sound she heard,
  She could not fly from death,
For burning lava filled the street,
  And ashes stopped her breath.

For many years within their home
  There was no light or air,
But in the ashes buried deep
  In silence, they were there.

An Oasis.

CHAPTER VIII.

Deserts and Oases.

WHAT is a desert?

A. A desert is a large portion of land, so sandy that nothing grows upon it.

How do people cross the large deserts?

A. In companies or caravans.

Why would it not be safe to cross a desert alone?

A. Because there are wild beasts and wicked men in some deserts.

Do the people in these caravans ride on horses?

A. No. They ride on camels, for horses could not bear such long, hard journeys, and they would often die for want of water.

Are camels easy to ride upon?

A. No; for their backs are very sharp, and their motion is tiresome.

How does the sand of a desert trouble travellers?

A. When they attempt to walk upon it, it is so hot that it blisters their feet, and it is blown in their eyes, and almost makes them blind.

After travelling for many days without seeing a green leaf, or tasting a drop of water, what do travellers sometimes find?

A. A beautiful green spot, with a stream of water running through it, and trees loaded with ripe fruit, scattered over it.

What is such a spot in a desert called?

A. An Oasis.

What do people who are crossing the desert do, when they come to an oasis?

A. They take the loads from their poor camels, and let them drink the fresh water and eat the green grass, while they are enjoying the nice fruit, and resting in the pleasant shade of the trees.

Amid the desert's burning sand
The green oases rise;
Where streams of cooling water flow,
Beneath the scorching skies.

The camel scents these pleasant spots
When they are out of sight;
By rapid steps and lifted head
He shows his great delight.

Hill and Valley.

CHAPTER IX.

Hills and Valleys.

WHAT is a hill?

A. A hill is a high portion of land.

What is a valley?

A. It is a low portion of land, between two hills or mountains.

Are hills ever so high, that their tops are always covered with snow?

A. No.

If you were to ride through a valley in summer, what would you notice with regard to the fields?

A. That they looked very fresh and green.

Why are the valleys green, when the fields upon the hills are withered in the hot sun?

A Because the water runs down from the hills, and keeps the valleys moist.

Boys sliding down a Hill.

How is all the land on the earth divided?

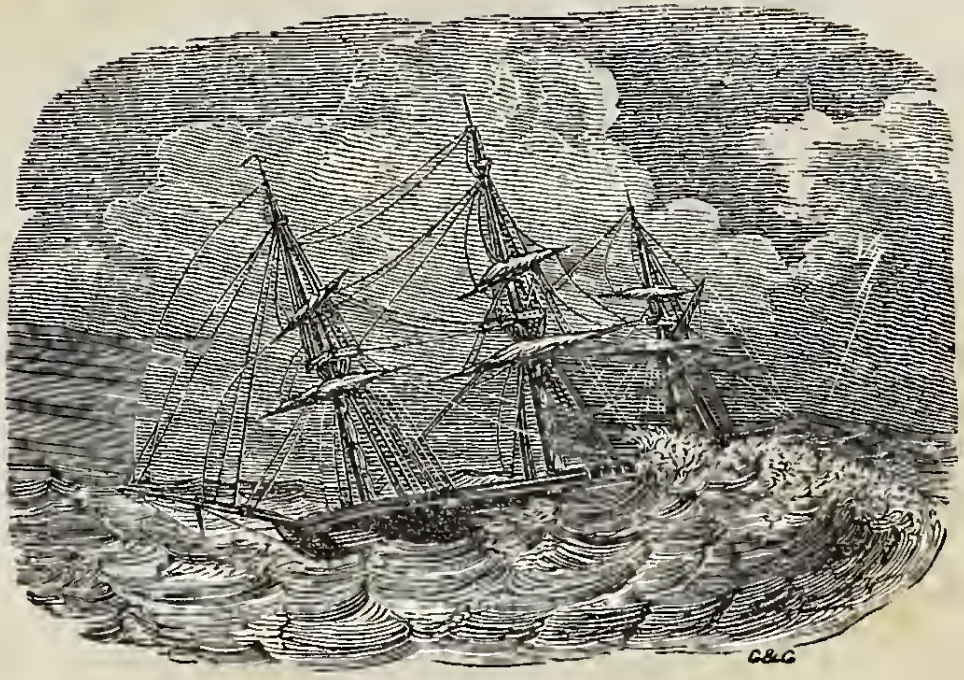
A. Into continents and islands.

What names are given to the different parts of continents and islands?

A. Coasts, capes, promontories, peninsulas, isthmuses, shores, mountains, deserts, oases, hills and valleys.

I love the hill,
Said merry Will,
For there, upon the snow,
I take my sled,
And slide ahead,
As fast as I can go.

I love the valley,
Said gentle Sally,
For there the lily grows,
And there are rushes,
And elder-bushes,
And there the river flows.



A Ship in a Storm, on the Ocean.

CHAPTER X.

The Ocean.

How do people go from one continent to the other?

A. They sail in vessels across the ocean.

What is the ocean?

A. A vast body of water.

What is the ocean sometimes called?

A. The sea.

Is the water of the ocean salt or fresh?

A. It is salt; so salt that it is not fit to drink

What do people do for fresh water, while they are crossing the ocean?

A. They carry it with them from the land, in casks, on board their vessels.

Is the water of the ocean deep?

A. Yes, it is so deep that no one has ever reached the bottom with a line.

What is the color of the water where it is so very deep?

A. It is of a dark blue color.

Is the water of the ocean smooth?

A. It is when there is no wind.

How does the ocean look when the wind blows?

A. The waves are as high as large houses, and white with foam.

Do vessels ever go far from land?

A. Yes. They often go out into the midst of the ocean, where they cannot see any land.

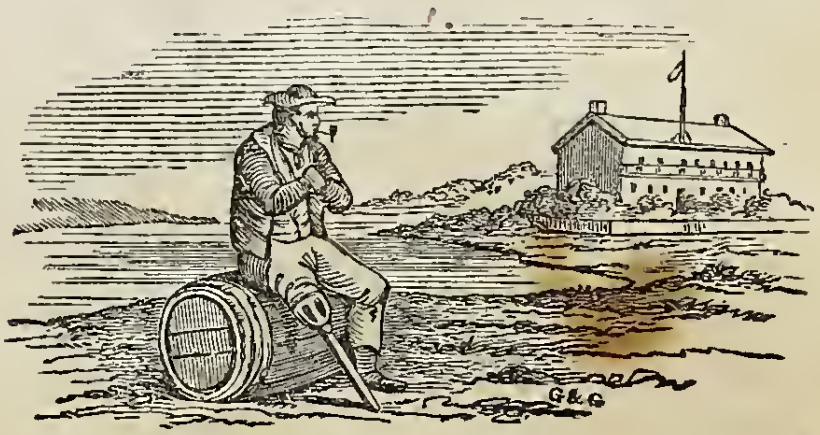
Is the water of the ocean of any use?

A. Yes, salt is sometimes made from it.

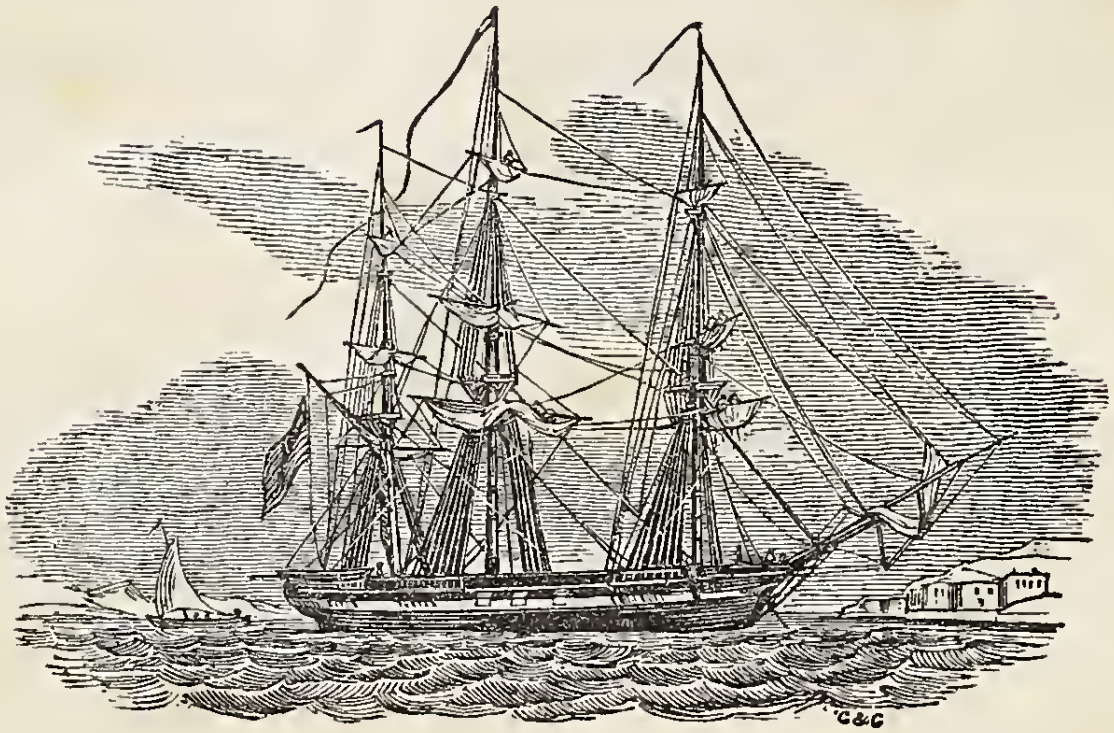
What is another use of the salt water?

A. Sick people bathe in it, and sometimes it cures them.

O! pity the sailors who, far on the sea,
Oft suffer with hunger and cold,
And give a few pennies to build them a "Home"
For all their disabled and old.



Sailor's Home.



Ship at anchor, in a Bay or Harbor.

CHAPTER XI.

Bays and Harbors.

You remember that coasts are not straight, but crooked and uneven. You have learned the names of the parts of the land, which run out beyond the rest, into the sea. Now there are

many places on the coast, where the sea runs up into the land : what are these called ?

A. Bays or gulfs.

Are storms as dangerous in a large bay, as on the ocean ?

A. They are.

Why ?

A. Because a bay is nearly surrounded by land, and vessels are in danger on all sides of being driven upon the shores.

What is a harbor ?

A. It is a small bay, where the water is always smooth.

Why is the water smooth in a harbor ?

A. Because the land around it keeps the wind from blowing upon it.

When a captain sees a storm coming on when he is near the coast, what does he try to do ?

A. To get into a safe harbor before the storm.

When a vessel enters a harbor after sailing on the ocean, what will the persons who are in the cabin perceive ?

A. That the vessel stops rocking, and they can walk about, without staggering like drunken men.

If they go on deck, what will they observe?

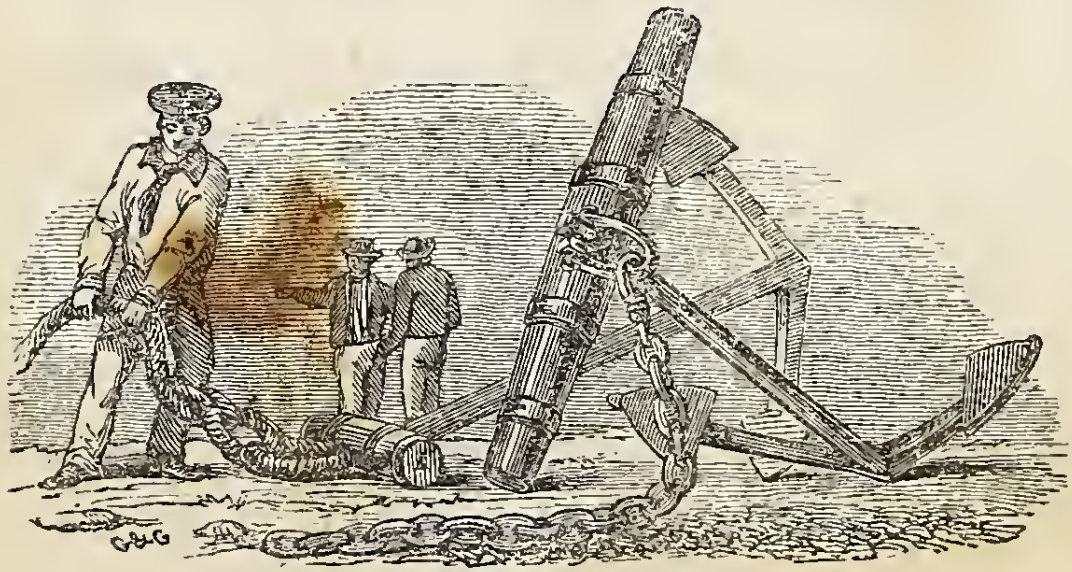
A. That the water looks green, and they can see the shore on both sides of them.

What will they see around them?

A. Many vessels, some just entering the harbor, and others at anchor, with their sails all taken in, and standing perfectly still in the water.

What prevents these vessels from being carried along by the wind and tide?

A. Their anchors, which are let down by chains into the water.



An Anchor and Cable.

What is the anchor of a vessel made of?

A. Of iron; shaped as in the picture, that it may hold on firmly, when dropped to the bottom of the harbor.

What do the sailors call their anchors?

A. They call them by strange names, such as "Big Dagon," "Bold Tom," and speak of them as if they were people.

Can vessels anchor on the ocean?

A. No.

Why?

A. Because the water is so deep that the chain of an anchor cannot reach the bottom.

Within the harbor's safe retreat
The ships at anchor lie;
While little boats with tiny sails
Are swiftly gliding by.

The angry ocean lies behind,
The danger now is o'er,
And thankful sailors shout with joy,
And hasten to the shore.

CHAPTER XII.

Sounds.

If you drop a long piece of cord into the water, and hold one end of it in your hand, will the cord sink?

A. No. It will float on the top of the water.

How can you make it sink?

A. By tying a piece of lead or anything heavy to the end which I drop into the water.

If your cord were long enough, would the lead sink to the bottom of the water?

A. It would.

If the lead touched the bottom, how could you tell how deep the water was?

A. By noticing how far the cord was wet.

How do sailors tell how deep the water is, over which they are sailing?

A. By letting down into the water a long cord,

with a lead to sink it, and pulling it up carefully to see how far it is wet.

Do they measure the cord while it is wet?

A. No. They have knots or marks upon it at equal distances, and they count how many of these knots or marks are wet.

What is finding the depth of water with a line and lead called?

A. Sounding.

Why is sounding useful?

A. Because sailors often find out in this way when they are near to the land, before they can see it, and thus are saved from running into the sand, or being dashed upon the rocks.

What is a sound?

A. It is a shallow part of the sea, which runs in between an island and the coast.

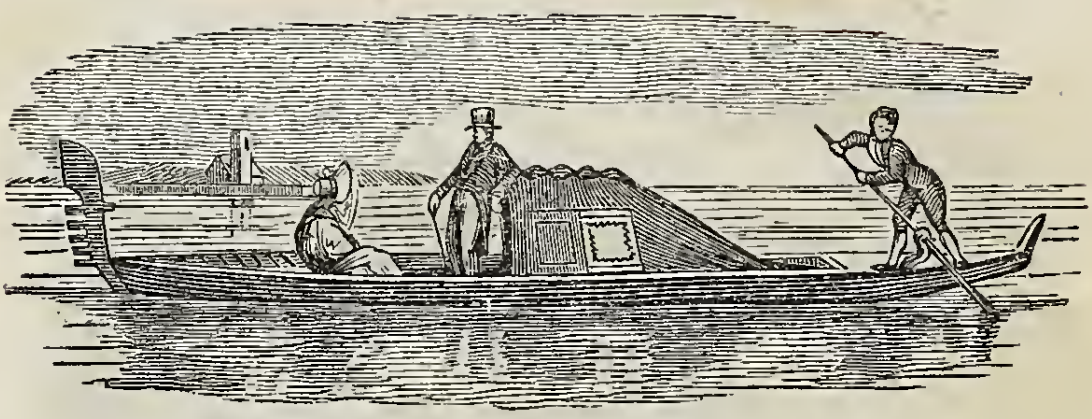
Why is it called a sound?

A. Because the water is so shallow there, that it can be sounded with a lead and line.

A Boy fishing, and a Sailor showing him a sounding lead and line.

A piece of lead upon a line
The little angler ties,
And then he baits with care the hook,
The fishes to surprise.

The sailor's line, more useful far,
The hidden danger shows
Of sandy shores and mighty rocks,
O'er which the vessel goes.



The Gondola, an Eastern Pleasure-boat.

CHAPTER XIII.

Seas and Straits.

Is there any salt water besides the ocean, and the places where it runs up into the land?

A. Yes, there are seas.

What is a sea?

A. It is a large body of salt water, nearly sur ounded by land.

Are there any seas on our continent?

A. No.

Then where are all the seas?

A. On the Eastern Continent.

The Israelites crossing the Red Sea.

When the Israelites were going out from Egypt, where they had been so cruelly treated, they came to the shores of the Red Sea. Pharoah, King of Egypt, was behind them with a very great army. The Israelites knew, that if Pharoah came up to them, he would make them prisoners and perhaps kill them all. If they had tried to go round the Red Sea by land, the Egyptians would have overtaken them. for they

had a great many horses and chariots, and the Israelites were on foot. As they stood trembling by the shore, God commanded their leader Moses to stretch out his arm towards the sea. He did so, and the waters divided, so that there was a dry path from one shore of the sea to the other. The Israelites walked joyfully on in the path which God had made for them. The waters rose up on each side of them, like high walls, yet not a drop fell upon them. When they had reached the other side in perfect safety, they looked back and saw that the Egyptians had followed them, and were now in the midst of the sea. While they were looking at their enemies hastening on to overtake them, they saw the waters close over them; and the path by which the Israelities had just passed was forever covered by the sea.

Where is this story found?

A. In the Bible.

In what book of the Bible?

A. In the book of Exodus.

On what continent is the Red Sea?

A. The Eastern continent.

How is the word straight, which means not crooked, spelt?

A. S-t-r-a-i-g-h-t

There is another word which is pronounced in the same way, but spelt s-t-r-a-i-t: what does that mean?

A. Narrow.

What is a strait gate then?

A. A narrow gate.

There are bodies of water which are called straits. What is such a strait?

A. A *narrow* passage of water between two seas, or between a sea and the ocean.

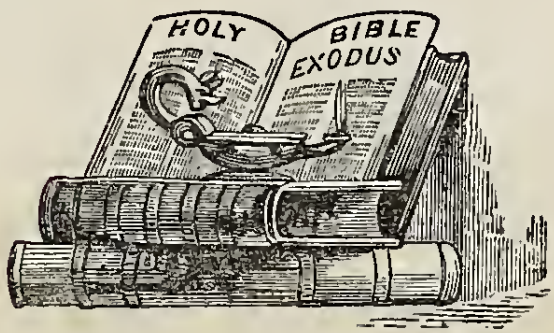
What is the only place where a sea is not surrounded by land?

A. The strait which joins it to another sea or to the ocean.

What are some of the names given to the different bodies of salt water?

A. The ocean, seas, gulfs, bays, sounds, harbours, &c.

Jehovah rent the rolling sea,
And led his people through;
This mighty Friend is still on high,
And watches over you.



A Lake.

CHAPTER XIV.

Lakes and Ponds.

If you were travelling in this continent, you would sometimes meet with a large body of water with land all around it. You might at first think it was a sea; but you would soon find that the water was fresh, for you would see the

cattle coming down to the shore to drink. Now, what is such a sheet of water called?

A. A lake.

What is the difference between the water of a lake and that of a sea?

A. The water of a lake is fresh, and the water of a sea is salt.

What is a lake?

A. It is a body of fresh water, surrounded by land.

What are very small lakes called?

A. They are called ponds.

Is the water in ponds rough or still?

A. It is still: so still, that flowers with very long stems grow up from the bottom, and blossom on the top of the water.

What are these flowers called?

A. Pond or water-lilies.

In the northern part of the United States, there are some very large lakes, so large that great ships sail upon them. Some years since the British were at war with our country, and

sent a great many men in vessels to fight with the men in our vessels upon these lakes. The British had never seen such large lakes before, and they thought the water must be salt, so they carried casks on board their vessels, filled with fresh water for the men to drink. The Americans laughed to see the British taking such good care of the water in their casks, and drinking it, although it was so old that it was almost yellow. The British sailors must have been very glad when they found that they did not need their casks, but could dip up fresh water from the cool deep lake on which they were sailing.

Upon the Western Continent
There's not a single sea ;
But many rivers, wide and long,
And mighty lakes have we.

A Winding River.

CHAPTER XV.

Rivers.

If you pour water upon a cellar-door or any other sloping place, which way will it run?

A. It will run down.

What becomes of the rain which falls upon the hills and mountains, and the snow which melts in spring?

A. They collect in the hollows, and form little streams or brooks.

In what other way are brooks formed?

A. There are springs where the water bubbles up constantly, and runs off in brooks.

When two of these little brooks meet, what happens?

A. They join, and run on together in one large stream.

What becomes of this stream?

A. It runs on, and meets other little brooks, which join it, until it becomes so large, that it is called a river.

Where is a river said to rise?

A. Where the little brooks join together, and make a large stream.

In what way do rivers sometimes rise?

A. They sometimes run out of little lakes, and then they are said to rise in these lakes.

Does a river grow larger or smaller as it flows on?

A. Larger.

Why ?

A. Because new brooks and streams are constantly running into it, and every one makes it larger.

If you were to commence where a river rises, and ride along upon its banks as it grew wider, how would you always find that it seemed to end ?

A. By running into some large body of water, such as another river, a sea, or a lake.

What is the place where a river joins a large body of water called ?

A. Its mouth, or the place where the river empties..

If you were to watch the water of a stream or river, what would you notice ?

A. That it was always moving.

If you were to put several pieces of wood, or little boats into a stream or river, would they all float the same way ?

A. They would.

Could you not make some go towards the

place where the river rose, and some towards the place where it emptied?

A. No; they would all float down the river.

What is meant by down the river?

A. Towards its mouth.

Then, which way does the water run in a river?

A. Towards its mouth, where it joins a larger body of water.

You speak of a river's emptying itself; does the water all run from the river into the large body of water into which it empties?

A. No. The water is always running out of the river into the large body of water, yet the river is never empty.

Why not?

A. Because the little streams which run from the hills and springs, keep it full.

Is there anything else which helps to keep the rivers full?

A. Yes, the rain which falls from the clouds.

The Country Lad and the River.

A country lad, with honest air,
Stood by the river-side;
He put his basket calmly down,
And gazed upon the tide.

Across the river's rapid flood,
He saw the village, well,
'Twas there he meant to see his aunt,
And there his turnips sell.

The stream was full with recent rain,
And flowed so swiftly by,

He thought he would with patience wait,
And it would soon be dry.

For many hours he waited there,
But still the stream flowed on;
And when he sadly turned away,
The summer day was gone.

His turnips might have gone to seed,
His aunt have pined away;
For still the stream kept flowing on,
Nor has it stopped to-day.

An Inundation.

CHAPTER XVI.

Inundations—Waterfalls.

ALTHOUGH rivers keep running on and are never dry, are they ever too full?

A. They are.

When is this?

A. When it has rained a very long time, and when the snow melts very fast in the spring.

What happens when a river becomes too full?

A. The water runs very rapidly, and spreads over all the land near its banks.

When a river becomes too full and overflows its banks, what is this overflowing called?

A. An inundation.

Are inundations ever sudden?

A. Yes. Rivers often overflow their banks in a single night.

When an inundation is sudden, what happens to the people who live near the banks of a river?

A. The water rises so fast, that before they can get out of their houses, their yards are filled with it, and sometimes it even runs in at the door and fills all their lower rooms, so that they are obliged to save themselves from drowning, by running up stairs and staying there until the water goes down.

Are houses ever carried away by an inundation?

A. Yes. Sometimes houses, trees and ani-

mals are swept away, and carried along by the rushing waters.

If you hold a pitcher of water very near to a basin, will the water make any noise, as you pour it out?

A. Very little.

If you put the basin on the floor, and hold the pitcher as high as you can while you pour out the water, how will it sound?

A. It will make a loud splashing noise.

When a stream runs along on even ground, does it make much noise?

A. It does not.

When a stream comes to a steep place where the ground suddenly becomes lower, how does the water come down?

A. It falls with a rushing, roaring sound?

How does the water look, when it reaches the low ground at the bottom?

A. White with foam.

What is that part of a stream called, where it suddenly falls from a higher to a lower place?

A. A waterfall.

Where do waterfalls make the loudest noise?

A. Where a stream falls over high sharp rocks.

Are waterfalls beautiful?

A. They are, and persons often travel a great many miles to see them.

How do waterfalls look when the sun shines upon them?

A. The smooth stream at the top is bright like silver, and the flying drops sparkle as they fall, like little stars.

Did you ever see a waterfall?

A little brook, within a meadow,
Went winding through the grass;
So calmly flowed its crystal waters,
They looked like shining glass.

But soon it reached a lofty forest,
And danced among the trees;
They seemed rejoiced to see it coming,
And rustled in the breeze.

The brook had now become so merry,
It almost seemed to shout;
It leaped among the bending willows,
And whirled the leaves about.

A Waterfall.

Below the forest was a valley,
The rock between was steep;
Yet madly roaring, on it hurried,
Impatient for the leap.

Among the rocks it brightly sparkled,
And filled the air with spray;
It reached the valley white with foaming.
And wildly went its way.

The little brook now ceased its frolic,
A calmer course to take,
And through the valley rolled its waters,
And mingled with the lake.

CHAPTER XVII.

Natural Divisions.

You have now learned how the land and water are divided into continents, islands, seas, rivers, &c. Who separated the land from the water and made all these divisions?

A. God, when he made the world.

What are these divisions called?

A. Natural divisions.

When you speak of anything as natural, for instance, a natural flower, what do you mean?

A That it is just as God made it.

Then what are natural divisions?

A. Divisions made by God.

Do the natural divisions of the earth always continue the same?

A. They do.

Can we alter them?

A. We cannot.

Can you tell me the names of the natural divisions of land, about which you have learned?

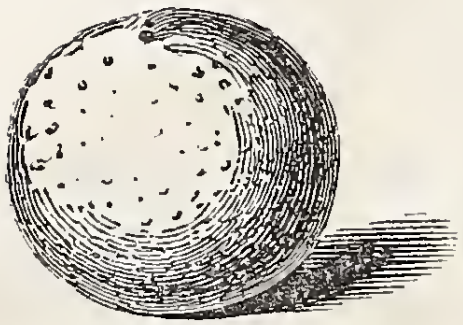
Tell me in your own words, what you mean by a continent, an island, &c.

Tell me the names of the natural divisions of water, about which you have learned.

What do you mean by a sea, the ocean, a lake, &c.?

The largest cities must decay,
And every man must die,
But the divisions made by God,
Are changeless as the sky.

Ruins of a City.



A large Orange.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Climate.

Is it just as warm everywhere on the earth, as it is where you live?

A. No; in some places it is a great deal hotter, and in others a great deal colder.

What two marks or spots will you find on an orange?

A. One at the top, where the stem was broken off, and another at the bottom, opposite to it.

If you examine an orange, you will find that

it is flattened at the top and bottom where the spots are, and swells out larger between them. Then, where is the orange thickest? from spot to spot, or where it swells out between them?

A. Where it swells out between them.

Now, the earth is shaped like an orange. Where are the coldest parts of the earth?

A. At the two places on the earth, which may be compared to the spots at the top and bottom of the orange.

Where is the hottest place on the earth?

A. Where it rounds out, half-way between the coldest places.

If you lived in the hottest part of the earth, could you take an afternoon ride in a carriage to the coldest part of the earth?

A. No. It would take me a long time to travel from a hot country to a cold one.

Would you travel a great while through a very hot country, and suddenly come to a cold one?

A. No.

How would it appear to you?

A. At first I should be very warm; but as I went on I should grow colder and colder, until at last, if I went far enough, I should freeze.

If you should turn round, and travel back to the hottest part of the earth, how would it appear to you?

A. I should be cold at first, and grow warmer and warmer until I should be almost dead with the heat.

On such a journey, where would you be most comfortable?

A. Between the very cold and the very warm countries.

Why?

A. Because I should be neither too warm nor too cold.

When a part of the earth is very hot, what do you say of it?

A. That it has a hot climate.

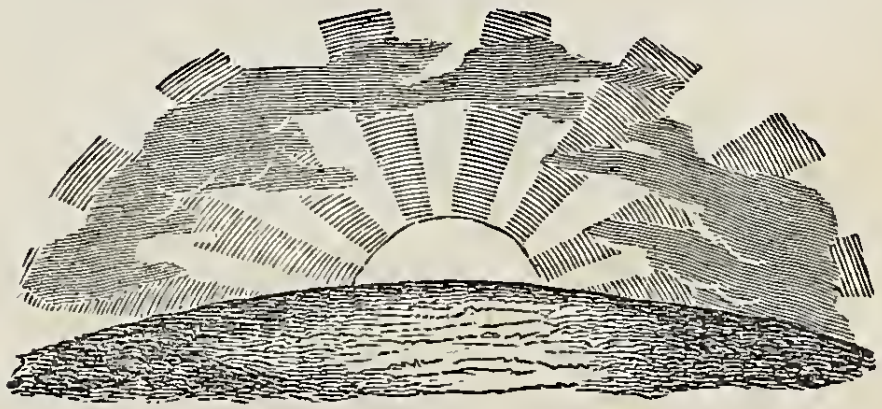
When a part of the earth is very cold, what do you say of it?

A. That it has a cold climate.

When a part of the earth is neither cold nor hot, what do you say of its climate?

A. That it is temperate.

The coldest climes upon the earth
Are separated far;
While all together, closely joined,
The hottest regions are.



The Sun.

A White Bear floating on an Island of Ice.

CHAPTER XIX.

Cold Climates.

Could you sail in a vessel to the coldest parts of the earth?

A. No.

Why not?

A. Because it is so cold there, that even the ocean freezes, so that we could not sail upon it.

If you could reach there by land, what would happen to you as soon as you arrived?

A. I should die with cold.

Has any one ever been to the coldest parts of the earth?

A. Not to the coldest parts, for they would freeze to death long before they reached there.

In the coldest climate in which men can live, with what is the ground covered the greater part of the winter?

A. With snow and ice.

Do the snow and ice ever melt, and leave the ground bare?

A. They do.

When?

A. For a little while in the summer.

Is the summer in such cold climates as long as ours?

A. No. It is very short: it lasts only a few weeks.

What is all the rest of the year?

A. A long dreary winter.

Are the nights and days, in such climates, of the same length as ours?

A. No. In the very coldest parts of the earth, half of the year is day, and half night.

How do the stars look to us in a warm night?

A. They shine very dimly, and sometimes there seems to be a mist before them, so that we hardly see them.

How do they look to us in a clear cold night?

A. Very bright and beautiful.

How do the stars look in the long nights of cold climates?

A. Much brighter than they ever do to us.

Are there any islands in the oceans and seas of cold climates?

A. Yes; there are many, with people living upon them.

There is one large island in this cold region, that has volcanoes and springs of boiling hot water upon it, and yet it is not warm there. What is this island called?

A. It is called Iceland, because there is so much ice there.

Large pieces of ice often become separated from the ice of the frozen ocean, and float towards warmer climates. What are these floating masses called?

A. They are called icebergs, or ice islands; but, of course, no people live upon them.

Some of them are as high as the steeple of a church, and look very beautifully. Do sailors like to see them?

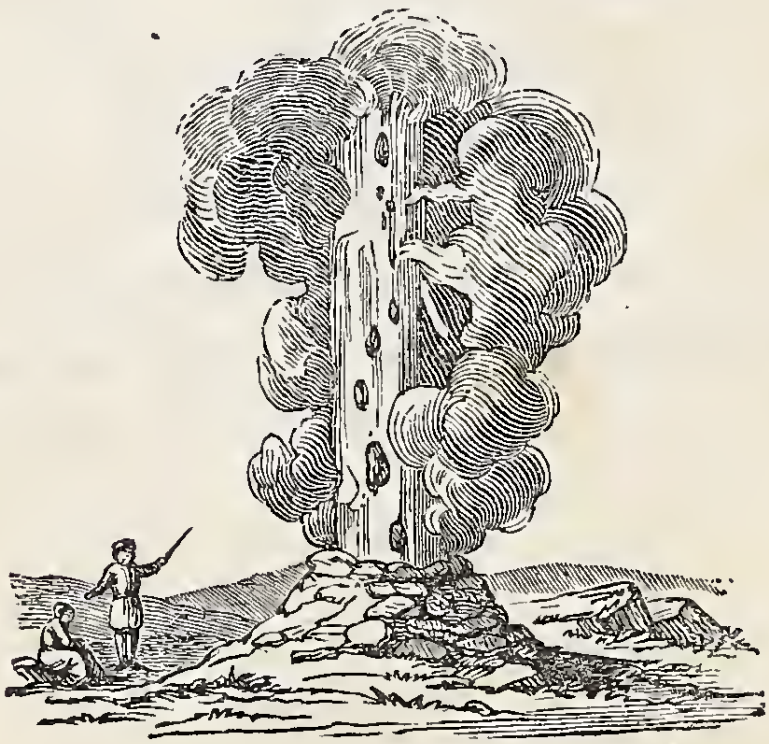
A. They do not; for vessels are sometimes dashed upon them, and broken to pieces.

Of what use are icebergs and islands of ice?

A. They help to cool the air of warmer climates.

A winter's night
Gives us delight,
And much the stars we love;
Their sparkling light
Attracts our sight,
And lifts our thoughts above.

They have, I hear,
In climes severe,
A longer, colder night;
But God is there,
With loving care,
To make the stars more bright.



Geysers or Boiling Springs.

Hurricane.

CHAPTER XX.

Hot Climates.

Is there any part of the earth where there is never any cold weather?

A. There is.

What then is the climate of that part of the earth?

A. A hot climate.

Could you stand in the sun, in such a climate, in the middle of the day?

A. I could not.

Why can the people who live there bear the heat?

A. Because they are accustomed to it, and they were made to live there.

Does a thunder-storm change the air in the hottest days that we have?

A. Yes; it makes it more cool and pleasant, after it is over.

Do they have many sudden and violent storms in hot climates?

A. They do; sometimes the wind blows so furiously, that it tears up trees by the roots, over turns houses, and roars like thunder in the forests.

Of what use are such storms?

A. They make the air more pure, so that it is safer to live there.

Have they any ice in hot countries?

A. Only when it is carried there in vessels from a cold climate.

Where does the ice come from, that is carried to them?

A. It is cut from frozen ponds, lakes, and rivers; for they are all fresh water.

Does it ever snow in hot climates?

A. Never; and if it did, the snow would melt as soon as it touched the ground.

What is the meaning of the word quake?

A. To shake, or tremble.

In hot countries the ground sometimes shakes, and a rumbling noise is heard: what are these shakings called?

A. Earthquakes.

What harm is done by earthquakes?

A. Houses are shaken down, and even whole cities have been destroyed by them.

Where are earthquakes most common?

A. In hot climates.

Many years before ice had been carried to hot countries, a traveller from a cold climate visited one of those countries. He went to pay the king a visit, and saw in the palace a great

many beautiful things, such as he had never seen before. The king asked the traveller about the country he came from, and believed all he said, until he mentioned that the rivers of his distant home were every winter covered with ice, so hard and strong, that an elephant could walk over it, without breaking it. When the king heard this, he was very angry, for, as he had never heard of ice before, he thought the traveller was telling him a lie, and ordered him to be carried to prison. It was with great difficulty that the poor man escaped with his life. Many things that could be told of hot climates might seem as strange to us as the ice story did to the ignorant king.

When fast it pours,
And thunder roars,
Then raise an earnest prayer
To Him whose power
Has sent the shower
To purify the air.

CHAPTER XXI.

Temperate Climates.

WHERE are temperate climates?

A. Between the hot and the cold.

In what kind of a climate do you live?

A. Where it is warm a part of the year, and cold a part of the year.

What is the warm part of the year called?

A. Summer.

What is the cold part called?

A. Winter.

What is that part called between winter and summer, when it is neither very warm nor very cold?

A. Spring.

There is another very delightful part, between summer and winter. What is it?

A. Autumn.

Then what are the four seasons?

A. Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter.

What is the climate in which you live called?

A. A temperate climate.

Then you can answer the following questions, if you have used your eyes and ears rightly, for they are about things that you have seen and heard?

Do they have snow in a temperate climate?

Do you know that every flake of snow is formed like a perfect little star?

How large were the largest hail-stones you ever saw?

Does it ever thunder and lighten in a temperate climate?

Did you ever hear of any person's being frozen to death in a temperate climate?

Did you ever hear of any person who died from the heat in this climate?

What amusements have you here, that you could not enjoy either in hot or cold climates?

Spring.

While farmers are sowing,
And violets growing,
We will not complain of the weather;
Though showers are falling,
And mud is appalling,
To school we will hasten together.

Summer.

While farmers are reaping,
And melons are creeping,
We will not complain of the weather;
Though peaches are smiling,
And orchards beguiling,
To school we will hasten together.

Autumn.

While chestnuts are dropping,
And squirrels are hopping,
We will not complain of the weather,
But pleasantly talking,
And rapidly walking,
To school we will hasten together.

Winter.

While sleigh-bells are sounding,
And snow-balls abounding,
We will not complain of the weather,
But merrily sliding,
While others are riding,
To school we will hasten together.

A Garden.

CHAPTER XXII.

Soil.

When we set out a plant, to grow in a flower-pot, what do we call the earth with which we fill the pot?

A. Soil.

Would you take the soil from the top or surface of the ground, or dig down deep for it?

A. From the top of the ground.

Why?

A. Because the soil lies upon the top, and further down there is sand, or rock, or clay.

What makes the soil at the top different from the ground below?

A. The plants and animals that die, decay and mix with the ground on the surface, and make it rich.

What is meant by a rich or fertile soil?

A. A soil which is so good for plants, that the seeds which happen to fall upon it, spring up and grow, without any care.

What is meant by a barren soil?

A. A soil where very few things will grow.

When sand covers the top of the ground, what is that soil called?

A. A sandy soil.

If the soil is not rich, can it be made so?

A. It can.

How?

A. By putting things upon it which mix with the ground, and make it rich.

When you are riding in the country, how can you tell whether the ground is barren or fertile?

A. Where the soil is rich, the country is covered with large and beautiful plants, while often, on a barren soil, nothing grows but short grass and wild berry bushes.

If you take a wild flower from a barren soil, and place it in the rich soil of the garden, how will it change?

A. It will grow much larger, and more beautiful.

The plants will spring with little care,
Upon a fertile soil;
While nothing grows on barren ground,
Unless by patient toil.

A Mine.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Minerals.

Do stones and metals grow?

A. They do not.

Can they move about like animals?

A. They cannot.

Why?

A. Because they have no life.

Then what are things called which never grow, and have no life?

A. Minerals.

Are minerals harder and more heavy than any part of animals or vegetables?

A. They are.

Which is the hardest and heaviest mineral?

A. The diamond.

Then what are diamonds, rubies, and other precious stones?

A. They are minerals.

What are such minerals as gold, silver, iron, lead, and copper called?

A. Metals.

If you had a piece of gold, and a piece of iron, each as large as your head, which would be worth the most money?

A. The piece of gold.

What metals are used for money?

A. Gold, silver, and copper.

What are gold and silver called?

A. Precious metals.

Which is really the most useful metal?

A. Iron.

What things can you think of that are made of iron?

What things of silver?

What of gold?

There are many useful minerals which are not metals, such as marble and other stones, for buildings. There is a mineral which is not a metal, that is sometimes made from the water of the sea, and sometimes dug out of the earth. It is white, and seasons almost all our food. What is it?

There is a black mineral which is not a metal: it is taken out of the earth in large pieces, and broken into small ones, for us to burn. What is it?

Can you think of any other useful minerals, that are not metals?

Where are minerals found?

A. On or in the ground.

What are the places called where they get out marble and other building stones?

A. Quarries.

What are the places called where other minerals are dug out of the earth?

A. Mines.

When mines have been worked many years, they become very deep, and extend a great distance under ground, like large caves. In some countries, criminals, that is, people who have done wicked things, are sent to work in these mines, as a punishment. There they often live under ground for many years, without seeing the light of the sun or the beautiful sky. They never hear the singing of the birds nor smell the sweet flowers. When their day's work is done, they go to their miserable huts, which are built in the mines. After toiling for a long time in the mines, many of these miserable creatures die and are buried there.

The people who live in mines are not always wicked. Honest, but poor men, with their

wives and children, spend all their lives in the mines.

Within the damp and gloomy mines
Some children toil for bread ;
And often, when their task is done,
Go supperless to bed.

While I, among the merry birds,
Or looking at the flowers,
Or reading pretty story-books,
Can pass my happy hours.

Then, since I have so many joys,
I will not wish for more ;
But try to be more satisfied
Than I have been before.

Pond-Lilies.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Vegetables.

WHAT are all plants called, large and small, that grow on the land and in the water?

A. Vegetables.

You know a great many vegetables that grow

on the land; can you mention any that grow in the water?

How would the earth look if there were no trees or other plants upon it?

A. Very bare and ugly.

Then what is one use of plants?

A. To make this earth pleasant to live upon.

But could we live at all, without plants?

A. We could not. We should soon die without them; and so would all land animals.

Of what use are trees?

A. They shade us from the sun, and bear nuts and other fruits.

But trees are useful in many ways. What do we call the hard part of trees?

A. Wood.

Mention some things made of wood.

Do we ever eat the bark of trees?

A. Yes; Cinnamon is the bark of a tree.

Did you ever taste any other kinds of bark?

What were they?

You would not like the bark of a tree for dinner: are there any other plants better for food?

A. Yes; many. The different kinds of bread are made from plants.

What plants are most commonly used for bread?

A. Wheat, rye, and Indian corn.

After wheat, rye, and corn are ground, what are they called before they are made into bread?

A. Flour, or meal.

What other plants are important articles of food?

A. Those raised in fields and gardens, as potatoes, rice, turnips, and so forth.

How are plants useful to the sick?

A. They are given to them as medicine.

Can you mention any plants used for medicine?

Are the flowers of any use?

A. Poppies, roses, and many other flowers are used for medicine; and in every flower there is something beautiful.

Of what use is the grass?

A. It affords pleasant food to some of the most useful animals, and covers the earth with a rich green carpet.

Do plants die?

A. They do, and decay, and mingle with the soil.

If nothing green
On earth were seen,
How dreary it would be!
The barren ground,
The whole year round,
We could not bear to see.

And much, indeed,
The plants we need,
For clothing, fire, and food;
And every hour,
Some tree or flower
Reminds us God is good.

Reindeer.

CHAPTER XXV.

Vegetables of Cold Climates.

WHY are not plants more easily thrown down or blown away by the wind?

A. Because their roots hold them fast in the ground

If you stand up a short thick stick, and a tall

slender one, which can you knock down most easily ?

A. The tall slender one.

Then what trees need the largest roots ?

A. The tallest and largest trees.

When the ground is frozen hard, ca you push a stick into it ?

A. I cannot.

Can trees spread their roots when the ground is frozen ?

A. No.

Is the ground always frozen in the cold climates that are inhabited ?

A. Not always. It thaws for a short time in the summer.

Are the summers there long enough to make the ground soft, deep in the earth ?

A. No, the summers are too short for that.

Then trees with long roots could not grow in very cold climates. Do they ever have large trees there ?

A. Never; they have only bushes and dwarf trees.

Do trees grow in winter in our climate?

A. They do not.

Then there is another reason why the trees in cold climates do not grow large. What is it?

A. Because they do not have time to grow much, during the short summer.

You have seen moss growing: did it require much soil for the roots?

A. Not much; for it grows on rocks and fences.

True; moss grows in great quantities in cold climates, because it can bear the cold, and does not need much soil. For what is it there used?

A. As food for men and animals.

For any thing else?

A. Yes; for beds and cushions, and to burn as fuel.

It is a different kind of moss from what we

find here. Have they any fruit in these cold regions?

A. Only a few wild berries.

The moss will grow
In beauty low,
And care not to be seen;
And yet the rocks,
And stones and stocks,
It clothes in living green.

And when it sees
The aged trees
Their leafless boughs display,
The hue it wears
It freely shares,
To hide the sad decay.

Then never scorn
The clothes forlorn
In which the poor are dress'd;
With thoughtful care,
Their feelings spare,
And comfort the distress'd.

Plants of Hot Climates.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Vegetables of Hot Climates.

In the hottest countries, is there any weather cold enough to prevent the plants from growing?

A. There is not; they keep growing all the while, till they get their full growth.

Do the trees there grow rapidly?

A. Very rapidly.

Then their trees must be very large?

A. They are so large, that some single trees might shade hundreds of men.

Travellers tell us of a tree that would spread over all the people of a very large city: Are the leaves of those trees like ours?

A. They are much larger: some of them are as large as the top of a dining-table, and very smooth and green.

What use do the people make of these large leaves?

A. They cover the roofs of their houses with palm-leaves, and make of them baskets, mats, fans, and many other things.

Vines covered wth beautiful flowers hang from some of the tall trees, in festoons like Christmas wreaths. Have they many kinds of fruit?

A. Yes; a greater variety than we have.

They have large and juicy fruits of beautiful colors. Why do they need more juicy fruits in a hot climate than we do in ours?

A. Because the heat makes the people thirsty.

Then how kindly are these juicy fruits given to them by the Creator! Are the fruits of hot countries ever brought to us?

A. Some of them are, such as oranges, lemons, and cocoa-nuts.

Will you mention some of the fruits of hot countries that are first dried and then brought to us?

Are their flowers like ours?

A. Some of them are; others are of brighter colors, and more beautiful.

Do we ever have any of the flowers of a hot climate brought here?

A. We do They are kept warm through the winter in green-houses; for they would die in the open air.

In countries where great is the heat,
The gayest of flowers
Abound in the bowers,
And fruits that are juicy and sweet.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Vegetables of a Temperate Climate.

As you live in a temperate climate, you know what grows here; you must therefore try to answer the questions yourself, without being told. Will you tell me the names of all the trees you have ever seen?

Which of them keep their leaves on all winter, and are called evergreens?

Which bear nuts that are eaten?

What fruit have you seen growing upon trees?

What upon bushes?

What upon vines?

What roots do we eat?

What stalks and green leaves do we eat?

Of what wild flowers can you tell the names?

What are some of the plants that animals eat?

You have heard of a plant called flax: what kind of cloth is made of it?

What kinds of cloth are made from the cotton plant?

Wheat is one of the most important plants of a temperate climate: have you ever seen it growing? How did it look?

There is a plant you often see
  In gardens and in fields;
Its stalk is straight, its leaves are long,
  And precious fruit it yields.

The fruit, when young, is soft and white,
  And closely wrapped in green;
And tassels hang from every ear,
  Which children love to glean.

But when the tassels fade away,
  The fruit is ripe and old;
It peeps from out the wrapping dry
  Like beads of yellow gold.

The fruit, when young, we boil and roast;
When old, we grind it well.
Now think of all the plants you know,
And try its name to tell.

Indian Corn.

Adam naming the Animals.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Animals.

WHAT are all creatures that have life called?

A. Animals.

Where do animals live?

A. Some live on the land, and some in the water.

Are men, beasts, birds, fishes, reptiles, and insects, all animals?

A. They are.

When four-footed animals live away from men, and take care of themselves, what are they called?

A. Wild beasts.

Where do wild beasts live?

A. In woods, and prairies, and caves, and deserts.

What are prairies?

A. Large tracts of country, covered all over with long grass and flowers, and not a tree upon them.

What is meant by hunting?

A. Going out after wild animals, to chase and kill them.

Why do men hunt for wild beasts?

A. They often do it for sport; but sometimes they want their flesh to eat, and their skins for clothing.

What are those animals called that men take care of, and make useful?

A. Tame or domestic animals.

What is the covering of beasts?

A. Hair, or fur.

With what are birds covered?

A. Feathers.

What is the covering of fishes?

A. Scales.

When fishes are covered with a hard shell, like lobsters and oysters, what are they called?

A. Shell-fish.

What are reptiles?

A. Creatures that crawl upon the ground, like snakes and lizards.

Which class of animals is the most poisonous?

A. Reptiles.

With what are insects generally covered?

A. With a hard skin or shell.

What class of animals is the smallest?

A. Insects.

What classes of animals are most used for food?

A. Beasts, birds, and fishes.

Are insects and reptiles ever used for food?

A. Not in our country; but there are places where some insects and reptiles are thought delicious food.

What is the mind, or sagacity, that animals possess, called?

A. Instinct.

The animals live everywhere,
Upon the ground and in the air;
They fill the trees
And crowd the seas;
Along the rocks and plains they pass,
And hide them in the waving grass.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Animals of a Cold Climate.

ARE there many land animals in cold countries?

A. Very few; they could not find food to live upon.

How are they protected from the cold?

A. By long hair and soft fur.

Do the people of these countries use the skins of the wild beasts for clothing?

A. They use them for coats, caps, boots, and mantles.

They make use of them for beds, bed-covering, and curtains. They would suffer very much without them. The furs they do not use themselves, they send away to sell or exchange for

other articles that they need, and in that way we get the beautiful furs for muffs, &c.

Have you ever seen a white bear?

Those white bears that are carried about with a menagerie, suffer much from the heat of the climate. To cool them, the men who have the care of them, place over their cages large pieces of ice in a kind of pan with holes in it. The ice melts and slowly drops through the holes upon the poor white bear; yet, even with all this care, he suffers with the heat, because he was made to live amidst snow and ice.

What animals do the people in those cold countries use, instead of horses?

Reindeer and Sledges.

A. Reindeer and strong dogs, which they harness to sledges, which are swiftly drawn over the snow.

Do they make any other use of the reindeer?

A. They use every part of it for some purpose; its flesh for food, its skin for clothing, its horns for knife-handles, and many other things.

Which would you like best to be drawn by, a reindeer with its branching horns, or four stout dogs?

What large sea-animals have they in these cold countries?

A. Whales and seals.

A Whale and Seals.

Do they use the fat of whales and seals for oil?

A. They burn it for lights, and they eat it too. They think the blubber, as the fat is called, very nice food. When the children cry, the mothers put a piece of blubber in their mouths, instead of a lump of sugar.

You have seen some of the bones of whales, such as the whalebones which we use: what part of the whale are they taken from?

A. The roof of the mouth.

What birds have they?

A. Wild ducks and other sea-fowl.

Have they many reptiles and insects?

A. Very few; the ground and the air are too cold for them.

The eider-duck can bear the cold,
And face the wintry storm,
For she is nicely wrapped in down,
Which keeps her dry and warm.

CHAPTER XXX.

Animals of a Hot Climate.

ARE there many animals in hot climates?

A. A great many; they fill the thick woods, and hide in the long grass and reeds by the rivers.

What are those thick woods called?

A. Jungles.

Do the wild beasts differ from those of a temperate climate?

A. They do; they are larger and more fierce.

What large wild animal is sometimes called the king of beasts?

A. The lion.

The tiger is found in hot countries: what does he resemble?

A. A large and fierce cat.

And the leopard?

A. He is beautifully spotted.

What do these wild beasts feed upon?

A. The flesh of all the other animals that they can kill; hyenas, jackals, and many other fierce animals abound in these hot countries, and varieties of monkeys and apes; they sit upon the trees, sometimes cracking nuts, and throw the shells at each other, like schoolboys

The Zebra.

in a frolic. What animal is said to look the most like man?

A. The ourang-outang.

There is a handsome striped animal, resembling a horse: what is his name?

A. The zebra.

Is the zebra a beast of prey?

A. He is not, for he does not feed upon other animals.

What other large animals feed upon plants?

A. The elephant and rhinoceros.

Are they covered with fur?

A. They are not; they have very thick and tough skins.

The elephant is very fierce when wild in the woods; is he ever tamed?

A. He is, and becomes, when kindly treated, very gentle and obedient.

How is he made useful?

A. He is made to draw heavy burdens; he carries a whole family on his back, when they

wish to take a ride; and soldiers, when they go to battle.

What animal is used for long journeys across sandy deserts?

A. The patient camel.

Do you remember what you learned about the camel in the first part of this book?

Are there birds in every tree in these countries?

A. They have very beautiful birds, with feathers of the brightest and gayest colors.

Their large trees, filled with parrots, parroquets, and birds-of-paradise, must look beautiful. Are their insects as gay as their birds?

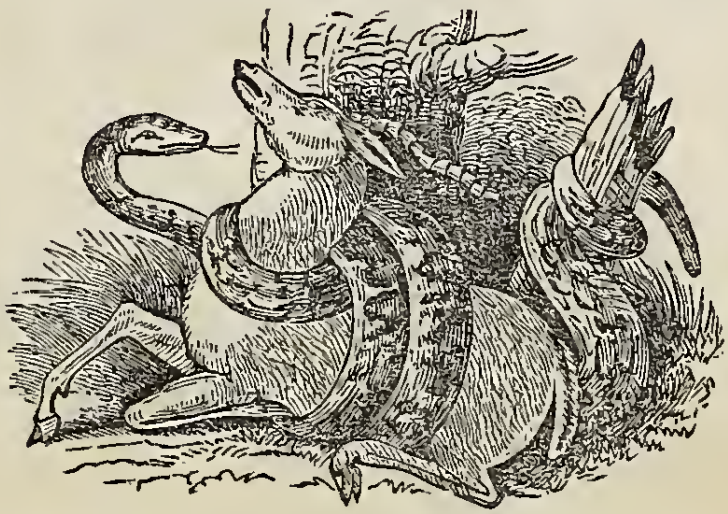
A. Yes; and they swarm in the air, and darken it like clouds, and run over the floors and walls in troops.

Among many reasons why it is unpleasant to live in hot countries, mention one.

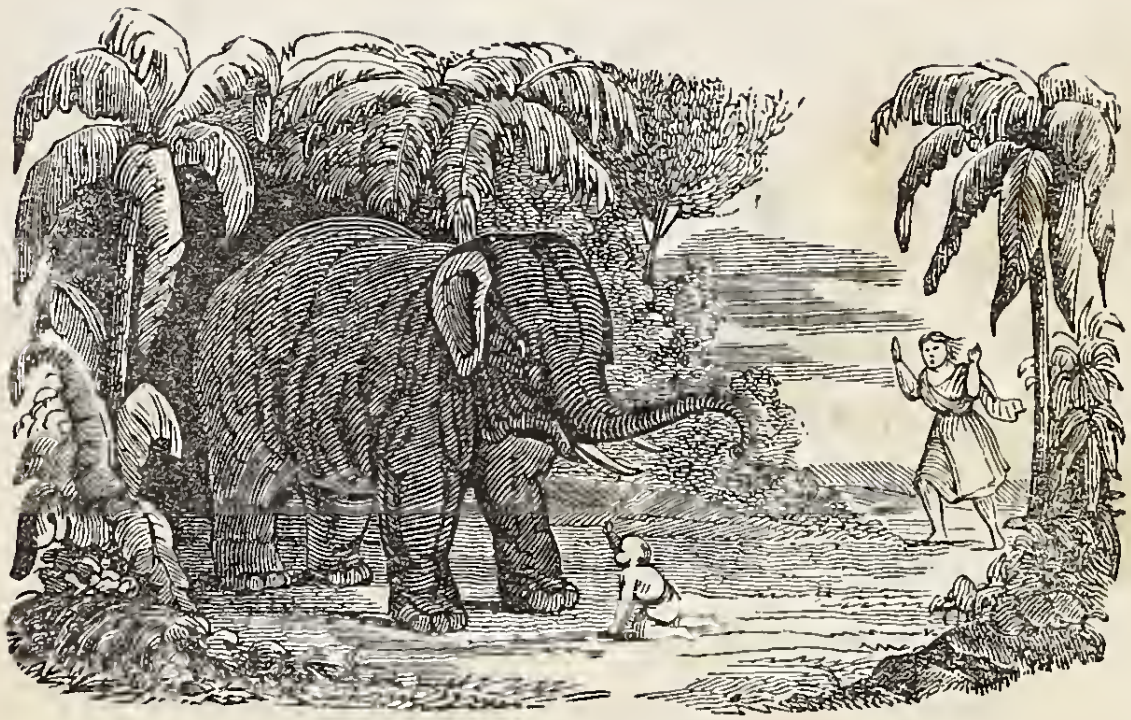
A. Because they have so many poisonous reptiles.

Are their snakes of a large size?

A. Some of them are very large; the anaconda is as large round as the body of a boy, and he crushes animals by winding himself around them, and then swallows them whole. The smaller snakes crawl into the houses, and even into the beds of the people. We have been able to tell you very little about animals here; you will learn all about them when you study Natural History.



Anaconda killing an Antelope.



The Elephant and the Child.

The arching trees above a path,
Had formed a pleasant shade ;
And here, to screen him while he slept,
An infant boy was laid.

His mother near him gathered fruit,—
But soon with fear she cried,
For slowly moving down the path,
An elephant she spied.

The sticks he crushed beneath his feet,
Had waked the sleeping child,
Who pushed aside the waving curls,
And looked at him, and smiled.

The mother could not reach the spot,—
With fear she held her breath,—
And there in agony she stood
To see him crushed to death

His heavy foot the monster held
Awhile above the boy,
Who laughed to see it moving there,
And clapped his hands with joy.

The mother saw it reach the ground
Beyond her infant son;
And watched till every foot was safe
Across the little one.

She caught the infant from the ground,
For there, unharmed, he lay;
And could have thanked the noble beast,
Who slowly stalked away.

A Farm-Yard.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Animals of a Temperate Climate.

THERE are not as many wild beasts in temperate climates as in the hotter ones, about which you have just learned. More people live in temperate climates, and they kill the wild

beasts and drive them away ; yet there are many left, very wild and fierce, and others graceful and beautiful. In the wide prairies of the western part of our own country, large herds of buffaloes are often seen. Panthers, bears, and wolves are found in temperate climates. The wolves are in some places so bold, that they will come to the farm-houses, which are far away from the towns, and carry off sheep from the folds, and even young children.

There are many large and beautiful wild birds in temperate climates. There is one large bird, that builds its nest upon high rocks and the tops of tall trees. This bird carries away whole lambs to her young birds in the nest. It is the sign or emblem of our country, and is called the American eagle.

You have probably not seen many of the wild beasts of our country, but you know all about our domestic animals.

What tame animals are here used to ride upon, and to draw heavy burdens ?

What animals give us milk?

What domestic animals do we use for food?

What for clothing?

What animal is the companion of man, and guards his house by night?

What other domestic animals have you seen?

Mention the wild birds you have seen.

The tame birds.

What reptiles did you ever see?

What worm spins silk?

What harmless insects have you seen?

What stinging insects?

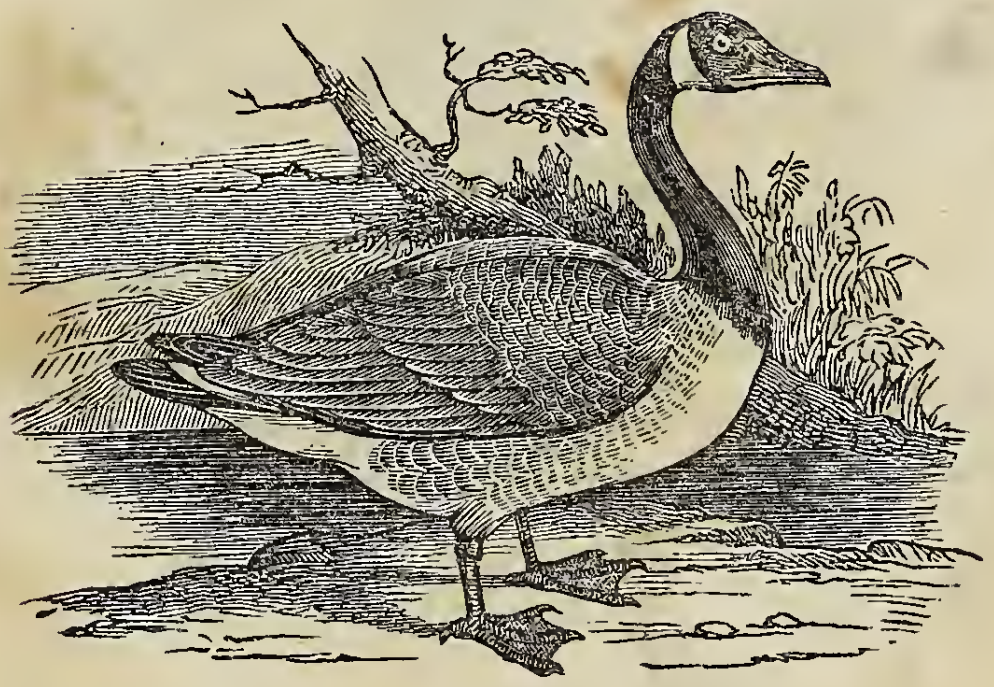
What insects make us sweet food?

Which is your favorite animal?

I am a large and awkward bird,
  And have been tamed by man;
He often roasts me for his food—
  Now guess me, if you can.

When young, my dress is yellow down;
  When old, 'tis gray or white:
I make your beds and pillows soft,
  And help you when you write.

Although I open wide my mouth,
I never say a word ;
Yet I am made a laughing-stock,
And called a silly bird.



Men of different Races.

CHAPTER XXXII.

Men.

WHAT superior animals find out uses for the minerals, cultivate the plants, and govern the other animals?

A. Men.

What makes them superior to the other animals?

A. The spirit or mind which God breathed into man at his first creation.

Are men alike all over the world?

A. No; they differ in different countries and climates.

Have they not always the same features,—that is, eyes, nose, mouth, &c.?

A. They have the same features, but they differ in form. The noses of some are flat, and their lips thick. They differ in color, too. Some are white, like the people of our country; others red men, like the Indians who once lived where we do now. Then there are brown men, and black men.

When you study a large geography, you will learn about the different countries on the earth, and the people who live in them. Your little geography has taught you about the divisions of the earth, its climates, soil, and productions.

When you walk in the country, and see the

beautiful flowers and trees, and enjoy the comforts of your home, what ought you to remember?

A. That it is God who made the world, and gives me all that I enjoy; and I ought to thank him for it.

When you do any thing that you know to be wrong, who are you offending?

A. The good God, who has watched over me night and day, ever since I was born.

My dear child, although this world is so beautiful, you know we are not to live in it for ever. When we die, our bodies will be laid in the ground of this earth; but if we love God and obey him here, he will take us to live with him in heaven. Let us ask our heavenly Father to make us his own children, that we may be prepared to be happy in his home.

Let children raise
Their songs of praise
To Him who dwells above;
For everywhere,
In earth and air,
They see that "God is love."